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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Federal Highway Administration  
Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets,  
Room PL-401,  
400 Seventh Street, SW.,  
Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Ref. Docket No. FHWA-97-2759- 47

Gentlemen;

We wish to comment on the proposed revision of 49 CFR 391.11(b)(2) as published under the referenced docket.

Our concern is with the safety of transportation of hazardous materials and believe that without the ability to read and write English, a driver cannot understand and comply with the Hazardous Materials Regulations.

Licensing drivers without this ability makes these regulations useless and endangers the lives of the driver, other motorists, and the surrounding communities.

We urge you not only to discontinue the proposed revision of the regulation, but also to strengthen it by adding to the requirements as follows;

49 CFR 391.11(b) (2) " Can read and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries to understand and comply with The Hazardous Materials Regulations of the Department of Transportation , and to make entries on reports and records;"

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Melvin B. Young  
Regulatory Advisor

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